

**SUMTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**SUBJECT:** State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program

☐ Work Session (Report  
Only)

☒ Regular Meeting

**DATE OF MEETING:** 10/13/09

☐ Special Meeting

**CONTRACT:** ☐ N/A

Effective Date: 7/1/08

Managing Division / Dept:

Vendor/Entity: SHIP funds

Termination Date: 6/30/11

Housing Department

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

☒ Annual

☐ Capital

☐ N/A

**FUNDING SOURCE:** N/A

**EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUESTED ACTION:** Approve Rent Deposit Strategy Payment Method

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**HISTORY/FACTS/ISSUES:**

The Local Housing Assistance Plan was amended and approved by the BOCC on July 14, 2009. From 1993 rent deposits were only available to Section 8 participants. The amended plan includes changing requirements to add all eligible residents of Sumter County and revising the maximum amount of assistance from \$500 to \$1,200 (repaid over 2 years at no interest).

Current payment process: Housing Department qualifies a family and places a request for payment on the BOCC agenda for approval. Housing Department has a history with Section 8 landlords willing to wait for payment. The current payment process can take from 2-4 weeks depending upon the BOCC meeting schedule.

Now that Housing is dealing with additional and new landlords unfamiliar with the current payment system, the Housing Department is requesting to modify the current payment process to assist families with moving into a unit in a timely manner.

New payment process: Housing will qualify the family and send a requisition for the County Administrator's signature (payment is split between landlord and utilities making each transaction less than \$1,000). This method will speed the process of payment to 7 days or less, giving landlords the incentive to hold units until all qualifications have been met and the unit passes Housing Quality Standards (HQS) standards.